

and lance-acuminate, being somewhat longer and narrower toward the tip than those of *P. moronensis*.

At least the lower peduncles of *P. moronensis* are equal to or longer than the subtending bracts. The bracts of *P. hidalgensis* are longer than the internodes they subtend, while the opposite is the case in *P. moronensis*. In the description of *P. hidalgensis*, Gentry & Arguellos 18238 from "Sierra Morones (C. Mixta), Zacatecas (US)" is cited as a possible hybrid between *P. hidalgensis* and *P. kunthii*. Since this is the type locality of *P. moronensis*, the suggestion that hybridization is occurring there led to a critical comparison of *P. moronensis* with other species of the region. I can see no indication that *P. moronensis* could possibly be a hybrid of *P. kunthii*, *P. hidalgensis*, or any other known species.

The study of *Penstemon moronensis* is part of work supported by a grant from the Research Committee of the University of Wisconsin of funds from the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation to Dr. Hugh H. Iltis. I am grateful to the Texas Research Foundation for lending specimens which yielded the new species.—Frank S. Crosswhite, *Herbarium, Department of Botany, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706*.

NOTES ON THE OCCURRENCE OF THE RARE DAHLIA BARKERIAE (COMPOSITAE).—As previously stated in my treatment of the North American species of *Dahlia* Cav. (North Amer. Flora ser. II. part 2: p. 54. 1955), Knowles & Westcott's original description and type plate of their *Dahlia Barkeriae* (Fl. Cab. 2: 28. 1838) were based on plants cultivated in England from material that had been found in the forests of Valladolid in Mexico, assumedly the Valladolid now called Morelia, in northeastern Michoacán, and not the Valladolid in Yucatán. Not until August, 1890, does this species seem to have been re-collected. At that time it was found by C. G. Pringle (no. 3164) at the not far distant locality (45 km. away), on limestone bluffs at Flor de Maria, northwestern part of State of Mexico. Apparently unfamiliar with the Knowles & Westcott treatment of *Dahlia Barkeriae*, Watson described the Pringle plants under the new name *Dahlia pubescens* (Proc. Amer. Acad. 26: p. 42. 1891; not *D. pubescens* Brongn. 1845), a name of course reducible to *Dahlia Barkeriae*.

Recently I was sent four folders of beautiful flowering material of this same species that had been cultivated in Denmark from achenes taken from Hawkes, Hjerting & Lester no. 1396. These collectors had obtained their feral specimens in the State of Mexico, Mexico, along the new highway 57 from Mexico City to San Juan del Rio at km. 167, Calpulalpan, San Martin, alt. 3100m.; "plant 60 cm. high, flowers bright mauve-pink." Specimens were cultivated in the Botanical Garden at Copenhagen, and one specimen was indicated on the label as having been put



to press in August, 1965. The other three sprays were from plants cultivated in the Botanical Garden at the University of Aarhus, and bore the date September, 1965. All are being presented to the Chicago Natural History Museum, for distribution later on to various herbaria.

The field data are presented above in detail with the thought that present-day collectors may be able to revisit the native habitats and obtain additional herbarium materials. For the specimens cited as having been received from Denmark, I am indebted to Mr. Frantz Kaufmann, of the Department of Organic Chemistry at the University of Aarhus, Aarhus, Denmark, also to Dr. J. Lam of the same department, who initiated the investigative studies being pursued at Aarhus by Mr. Kaufmann. These have to do primarily with the possible occurrence of certain chemical substances in dahlias (e.g., a so-called "acetylenic compound").

As the research findings of these Danish workers on *Dahlia Barkeriae* and on a number of additional species of *Dahlia* may well be published in scientific journals outside the scope of Botany, we may note here an interesting observation by Mr. Kaufmann on some of his cultivated specimens of *Dahlia coccinea* Cav. var. *coccinea*. In his letter to me of Dec. 12, 1965, he reports the achenes to be "biaristate. The same phenomenon I have observed by another, but uncertain species: *Dahlia* aff. *pinnata*." In an earlier paper (Bot. Gaz. 89: 365, footnote 3. 1930; cf. N. Amer. Fl. loc. cit. 46, footnote 1), I reported similarly biaristate achenes, "presumably of *D. pinnata* Cav., the aristae naked, almost capilliform, and mostly 6—10 mm. long." In the packet of some thirty *D. coccinea* achenes sent me by Mr. Kaufmann, the achenes are similar, but with aristae only about 5—6 mm. long.—Earl Edward Sherff, Department of Botany, Chicago Natural History Museum, Chicago 5, Illinois.